

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

Wife of a Foreign Diplomat and Their Children—A Handsome Man Well Worth Knowing—Analysis of the Perfect Ear.

A BEAUTIFUL EAR.

Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer Discovers the Form and Size It Must Assume.

It Is Doable Under Treatment, and Can Be Trained to Conform to Auricular Properties.

The physiologist is having his day, and those of us whose features do not meet the scientific requirements are being unmercifully tickled as hopeless degenerates according to the deficiencies in our ears and noses. It is, perhaps, well to briefly note the characteristics of a properly chiselled ear and the means for reforming unruly aurial appendage.

The perfect ear should be about twice as long as broad, and should be attached to the head almost straight or slightly inclined backwards, and should touch the head with the back of its upper point. The critical observer will find very few perfect ears. Mothers and nurses are greatly to blame for the almost deformed ear we constantly see on our young people. There is nothing gives a lad so uncouth an appearance as a wide, projecting ear, and although a girl can dress her hair to somewhat lessen the ugly deformity, as long as the ear stands out from the head, they are a great blemish. There is no need to have recourse to a surgeon to effect a cure in outstanding ears. A simple bandage worn at night which holds them flat to the head is all that is necessary. There is some sort of a patent skeleton cap, I believe, which has the same purpose in view, and is more comfortable to wear, particularly in warm weather. The ear contains no bones, and is for this reason easily trained.

The reprehensible practice of piercing the ears is traceable to remote antiquity. I am opposed to it, not from an aesthetic point of view alone (though I think any mutilation of the flesh abominable), but piercing the ears is not always a simple, harmless operation. It has been known, when clumsily performed, to develop erysipelas and abscesses of a most painful and sometimes dangerous character. Eczema of the ear is a common ailment and a most disagreeable one. Indeed, all maladies of the external ear are peculiarly offensive. The sufferer from eczema should never eat pork in any form. Shellfish will frequently produce an attack of eczema, and, where such is the case, must be abstained from. Women subject to eczema should eat quantities of fruit, salads, particularly dandelion and watercress; they should take frequent warm, carminative baths, and, above all, they should not get either chilled or overheated.

For a local application a weak dilution of carbolic acid is healing and agreeable, or a few drops of listerine diluted with water will allay the fearful itching of eczema of the ear. The following ointment is also excellent:

CALIBULATED OINTMENT.
Melt together five ounces pure lard and two and one-half ounces white wax; add one-half ounce balsam of fir, and when it begins to cool, stir in one-half ounce diluted carbolic acid. The addition of balsam of fir to this preparation corrects the disagreeable odor of the acid and renders it slightly adhesive, which is desirable.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
A Constant Reader—Use the flesh food at night after thoroughly bathing and rinsing the face.

Violet—The least harmful way of darkening the eyebrows is to use the eyebrow

THE RICHEST HEIR IN AMERICA.



EDWARD HOWLAND ROBINSON GREEN.
Only Son of Mrs. Hetty Green.

pencil to be purchased at any shop where toilet articles are sold. If carefully used it cannot be detected.

Marguerite—You should use the scrubbing-brush and soap for your face. It is impossible for the powder you speak of to have created the rash. Directions for properly washing the face have been given in a previous article in the Journal.

E. J. B.—I should think Turkish baths might be beneficial. There are a number of good schools of physical culture in the city.

Minnie—The camel's hair face scrubbing brush is to be purchased at a number of shops in New York. It is about six inches long and four wide, with wooden back, unvarnished. The bristles are especially selected for this purpose. The cost is about \$1.25.

L. C.—An article will appear later on the subject you suggest.

HARRIET HUBBARD AYER.

PERFECT COMPREHENSION.

He (desiring the way to a proposal)—Ah, Miss Eleanor, you can never know how I have longed for a home.

She—Indeed, I can. Haven't I lived in a flat myself?

DISPOSING OF THE CHAPERON.

Mollie—How on earth do you manage with your chaperon? Mine is positively argus-eyed.

Dolly—Oh, I always provide mine with a man. She immediately becomes perfectly oblivious of me.

CYCLING NOTES.

As the silent steel speeds swiftly by the mind is easily prompted to reflect on the strange fact that this easy means of locomotion was but so recently invented. What were those clever people, the ancients, doing through all the centuries not to think of a contrivance based on the simple principle that controls the trundling of a hoop? What "pie" it would have been for the Romans, who made good roads wherever they went, and who knew as well as we do that wheels diminish friction when conveying weight over road surfaces, had they but thought of this means of applying their knowledge. And what a trade those steel workers of Damascus could have done had they but devised this machine and then combined the making of husband axes, not to speak of ball bearings, with that of tempering blades! Stimulated by the departure of the Boston and Princeton athletes for Athens, it is almost natural also to speculate retrospectively, so to speak, on the ideas that would have actuated the fashionable society of ancient Athens on the costume question had their maidens caught the cycle craze. In what soft folds would their rounded limbs have been encased while pedalling under the cypress shades? The only thing one can be sure of is that they would not have worn corsets.

In order to avoid the lack or rigidity incident to the drop frame as ordinarily constructed one maker has this season reinforced the frame throughout with a triangular tube which makes the machine as strong as a man's wheel. There is a great advantage in this improvement, for if the wheel "gives" when pressing on the pedals some of the exerted force is wasted.

Some of the cycle writers have had their minds much exercised of late about the danger of there being another women's race, and they have threatened to take steps to prevent a repetition of what they properly regard as an unseemly exhibition. The racing itself was not unsightly; indeed, many spectators were surprised at the graceful attitudes of the competitors. But the strain to which the riders were subjected and some other necessary adjuncts of the event were such as to make it so repellent to good taste that, on the whole, it is to be hoped that the undue importance attached to it will not have the effect of defeating the intended denunciation.

A minor improvement introduced this year is a little device called an automatic balance, which assists the rider to steer the wheel steadily and so maintain a direct line. The attachment also lessens the difficulty of riding with the hands off the handlebar, a trick which, although never graceful, is sometimes very convenient.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt has frequently expressed herself as opposed to the use of rational costume. Riding in a skirt, however, seems to have modified her ideas to some extent, for she is today having a safety skirt, which, on the wheel, has the appearance of bloomers, expressed to her in Boston.

HOROSCOPE FOR GIRLS.

Here is an old astrological prediction of the character of a girl born in each of the months:

January—She will be a prudent housewife, given to melancholy, but good tempered and fond of fine clothes.
February—An affectionate wife, and tender mother and given to dress.
March—A frivolous chatterbox, somewhat given to quarrelling, and a connoisseur in gowns and bonnets.
April—Inconstant, not very intelligent, but likely to be good looking and studious of fashion plates.
May—Handsome, amiable and given to style in dress.
June—Impetuous; will marry early, be frivolous and like dressy clothes.
July—Possibly handsome, but with a sulky temper and a penchant for gay attire.
August—Amiable and practical, likely to marry rich and dress stikingly.
September—Discreet, capable, much liked and a fashionable dress.
October—Pretty and quietish and devoted to attractive garb.
November—Liberal, kind of a mild disposition and an admirer of stylish dress.
December—Well proportioned, fond of novelty, extravagant, and a student of a easy effects.

Religion presents few difficulties to the humble, many to the proud, insuperable ones to the vain.

HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES.

Suggestions for Lightening and Brightening Their Labor.

Sweetbreads en brochette are a dainty luncheon dish or dinner entrée. The sweetbreads should be soaked for an hour in salt and water. Then they should be parboiled for ten minutes, drained and dropped into cold water. All the loose, thick skin should be removed, and if they are unusually large they should be split. Drying and flouring them and rolling them in egg and bread crumbs complete their preparation for frying. They should be fried in a rich brown and strung on a wooden skewer with alternate pieces of thin, crisp bacon.

Bran is useful in other ways than in beautifying the complexion in bran bath bags. Dainty silk cushions and silk coverings to furniture may be restored to their pristine freshness by being sprinkled with bran and quickly rubbed with a woolen cloth until they are clean.

Ashes may be put to other uses than purely penitential ones. If medicine bottles are to be saved, drop ashes in each one, immerse them in a pot of cold water and heat it until it boils. Then remove it from the stove and let it become cold before taking out the bottles. When they are cold wash them in soap suds and rinse in clear water.

To remove ink spots from white goods saturate the stain with lemon juice, sprinkle with salt and expose to the sunlight. Iron mould may be treated in the same way. Wine stains may be removed in the same way from cotton, but silk should be treated with salts of ammonia mixed with lime.

Never let the laundry, in her commendable desire to give a gloss to table linen, starch it. To produce a high, satiny polish on damask it should first be thoroughly dampened and then ironed with a heavy flatiron until it is absolutely dry. Tableclothes and napkins should never leave the ironing board in a limp condition. If they are at all moist they will not only look dull and lustreless in the beginning, but they will soon lose the shape and trimness, without which they are untidy and slovenly looking.

When window glass is lacking in brilliancy clean it with a liquid paste made of alcohol and whiting. It requires only a little of this mixture to remove specks and to impart a high lustre to the glass.

The housewife who wears attached to her apron band a long string with an iron holder on the end it saves herself many burns when she works about the stove. Holders made of ticking or of denim are the most durable.

HEARD WHERE WOMEN MEET.

She was clad in weeds, denoting almost the deepest state of grief. No veil danced behind the plain, somewhat rusty crepe bonnet, but no other outward and visible sign of woe was lacking in her attire. She was engaged in overturning a bargain counter full of brilliant silks when she was espied by an acquaintance.

"Oh, my dear Arabella!" exclaimed the latter, rushing over with the proper expression of sympathy on her face and the correct intonation of condolence in her voice. "My dear Arabella! I am so sorry. *Quelle mesere chose!* and I am not near of it!"

"What?" said Arabella. "Why, what do you mean? Oh! These old duds. They are misleading, but I've worn them on rainy days ever since I went out of mourning. Mere thrift, Julia!"

And yet there are those who say that women lack financial sense.

"No," announced Marianne, while the club waited for the arrival of the chairman. "I no longer cherish any yearning sentiment for the friends of my youth. One of the tribe descended upon me the other day. I was madly excited and very happy and when I met her at the station she only said: 'Gracious, how changed you are!' Then she came up home and related episodes of our boarding-school career at the dinner table, where the minister was guest of honor, and finally she asked me if I remembered how difficult I had found it to train the girls to call me Marianne, after being Mary Ann for two terms. No, old friends are not."

Just then the president of the club arrived and began to explain how she had been detained trying to match silks at Embroiderers', and Marianne's final words on old friends were lost.

"Jack and Milly have decided to announce their engagement," said the girl in the tan coat.

"Why? Is she wearing a toilette or what?"

"No, but they were found in the furniture store the other day pricing oil stoves. Of course, there was no concealment possible after that."

THOSE MONOTONOUS SONNETS.

She, gushingly to the literary Non-Oh, Mr. De Ketter, I did so enjoy that last volume of yours—that "Little Book of Sonnets," you know.

He—Thank you; I am glad that you enjoyed them. But haven't you any helpful criticism for me?

She—Well, don't you think if you had made them different lengths, they wouldn't have looked so monotonous?

THE WIFE OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

The German Government owns its own Legation home in Washington, and a beautiful home it is, too. The present Ambassador, Baron Von Thielmann, and his charming wife have only occupied it a few months, arriving here last July. Baroness Von Thielmann is a bit of animated sunshine, "staunchly tall and most divinely fair." Masses of fair hair are piled above bright hazel eyes and a brow that is broad and white, and you can see in every line of the graceful figure that the Baroness combines in herself all the better elements of the line of old Saxon Kings from whom she is descended. She was born and educated in Dresden, and she makes you think of those marvellous Dresden figures, so daintily and prettily colored.

The Baroness was at breakfast when I called, and asked me at once to the breakfast room, where she was making the matutinal meal off a cup of black coffee, a Vienna roll and a tiny glass of light wine. Such a beautiful room as it is! Its furniture is the same that her bright eyes first saw in her German home across the sea, and is all very old. I noticed that her writing desk is tulard, and she said that it was an heirloom left to her father, and, being in the room where she was born, became her property. She has also a massive chiffonier she calls a "reticelle," which is as old as the hills, and as odd looking.

Finding that I was interested in old things, she took me to see a massive black walnut sideboard in the dining room. In the carving on the front is the legend, "Anno Domini 1630," and most of the furniture in the apartment is of the same age. The great ballroom, which has been built



within the year, is furnished in Renaissance style, with gilt furniture gilt framed mirrors, inlaid pearl topped tables and cabinets. Magnificent among the canvases most highly prized are the life-sized portraits ordered painted by the Emperor and presented to the Baron and his wife by the Von Thielmanns for their mission here.

The Baroness is a fine linguist, and speaks English extremely less than a year. She talks with her hands and her shoulders a with a pat of the daintiest foot imaginable.

"Society? Oh, it is woman's realm," she said, with a graphic she went on. "We have been to so many places, my husband reproves we have moved six times in nine years. That is hard on a family, people are so charming—with a wide, sweeping gesture of both a lonely a moment in America, although I left in dear Germany all in

"Politics?" she repeated after me, inquiringly. "I do not know a do not need to know anything about them. I am the housewife, politics in America, do you not?"

"Indeed, I do like to entertain," she replied to my question entertain all the time. I have no time to read, to write, to attend to oh, there is so much hospitality here. In Germany we are hospitable, too, but not like here.

and balls, but there is very little social calling—the people are much less cordial in that way. We attend our homes."

"Then you think that a woman who is a mother should devote herself to her children?" I asked.

"Can there be two opinions?" she responded, with a real Yankee answer, hands and eyes and voice indicating surprise. "My babies, they are the pride of our home. To be a good mother is the highest ambition that a woman can have. What music is diviner than the laugh of my happy little children? What painting truer than the flush of health on their dimpled cheeks? What society more worth than an hour with them? My children are my jewels."

Anybody who has seen the Von Thielmann babies will not gallysay their proud mother in that. They are two as lovely children as Raphael ever transferred to canvas. Fair as lilies, with centuries of high breeding expressed in face and feature. Hilda, aged six, and Carolina, aged three, attract attention everywhere. They have such exquisite manners, though full of life and laughter, that one could wish that some American mothers would pattern after Baroness Von Thielmann's manner of "polishing" her jewels.

Baron Von Thielmann brought many handsome souvenirs of his sojourn in Copenhagen, Berlin and other cities to this country with him, and they also brought a corps of nine well-trained servants. The society affairs that are given by the Baron and Baroness are splendid in every sense of the word. The Baroness gowns herself with exquisite taste, and has jewels that a queen might covet, they are so beautiful and costly. I asked her how many languages she spoke, and she said: "Italian very bad, French tolerably, and English but poorly." She is in reality master of all, and a fine German scholar, in the literature of whole language she is thoroughly versed. She has many accomplishments, and is altogether a thoroughly interesting and charming woman.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S BONNETS IN MUSLIN AND PIQUE



The improved and adorned sun-bonnet the latest, most approved style of covering for little girls. So attractive already proved there is likelihood of an enlarged sphere of usefulness for sister and as blind to the rest at shade and

shadows have values and develop the most ideal face.

Pique and dotted muslins are equally in favor, dissimilar as they are. The heavier material is preferred for morning use, as it can be laundered without loss of beauty, but the transparent muslin and wisps, made up into bewitching frills and wide strings, make the bonnets that fascinate the bolder. Pink, blue, white and yellow all have their adherents. Which is the best individual, choosing must decide. Only white can be trusted to suit all styles. A few of the bonnets are ornate. Silk is laborious

and rich lace are used the models shown, but all are preferred. If not in fact, is it nothing is so suggestive as the delicate in its laborious

CHIFFON AND BROADCLOTH GAPE.

HER CALM CONCLUSION.

A woman who has had her fair share of attention said the other day: "Of all the men I have known in my life there have been only two who took the least interest in what I could tell them, in my thoughts, my tastes, my feelings. The others were quite willing that I should listen to their various adventures, their loves and hates; they expected an unremitting attention to their affairs, a smiling interest in all that concerned them, but when I began to tell of myself their attention wandered, they changed the subject, or listened in a perfunctory way which was even worse. And these were not particularly selfish men, and not at all unkind ones; they were good fellows with the best and most friendly feelings; it was simply that their nature was to be interested. The two that listened were, I regret to say, not Americans, and I doubt whether in an emergency they would have been of much good to one, not from unwillingness, but from a general foreign helplessness. But their receptive natures made them very delightful companions, and it seems a pity that the native article, with his kindness, his hard workingness, his trustworthiness and his general good qualities, should not be a bit more sympathetic too."

DIANA OF TEXAS.

In Texas the wildcats, the black bears, the wolves and the Mexican lions are learning to behave of petticoated beings. Miss Zola Saint Louis is the woman who has inspired the animals with this unusual respect. Since the opening of the hunting season last Fall she has killed twenty-five deer, five black bears, seven wildcats, three wolves and one Mexican lion. Besides being a hunter of big game, Miss Saint Louis is a taxidermist. She has studied the gentle art of skinning and stuffing her trophies until her home is a sort of museum of Texan natural history. Four years spent at Hardin College, in Mexico, Mo., made her as skillful a taxidermist as there is in the State. In spite of her unusual accomplishments she is not a unsexed young person, but a somewhat slenderly built, brown-eyed, graceful girl.

Young Mother to Professor of Ethics—Professor, would you whip a child for breaking a very valuable Dresden china vase?

Professor (thoughtfully)—That would depend, madam, on whether I thought the more of the child or the vase.